



SWANS

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Established 1971



Sixth Form Prospectus

2017-2019

Dedicated to teaching and learning for over 45 years



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Welcome to Swans Sixth Form



We are delighted to welcome you to Swans International School. We are extremely proud to present you with an insight into the globally acclaimed IB Diploma Programme and the wider school life experienced by Sixth Formers at Swans, so that you can make informed decisions about your child's education and future.

As a school, we have an excellent track record of delivering the IB Diploma Programme. We offer the widest range of subjects on the Costa del Sol and in 2016 our students gained some of the best results worldwide, including one score of **44 points**, equivalent to the top **0.5% of students** in the world.

At Swans we believe passionately in providing a purposeful, adult-friendly, modern, learning environment, where students are encouraged to achieve outstanding academic results and learn the importance of tolerance, personal responsibility and giving back to the wider community.

Our IB Diploma gives students the opportunity to **expand their horizons** and to continue developing their study skills, personal qualities and time management. We aim to encourage learners who are proficient in research, independent thought, considered judgements and analytical skills.

Our successful programme sets a balance between excellent instruction, rigorous academic goals and preparing for the best possible outcomes in a challenging yet safe and nurturing environment. Our Creative Activity and Service (CAS) Programme assists students to become valued citizens of both the local and global community.

Above all, it is our aim to help students develop into fully-rounded young adults who are equipped to enter their chosen career or university. We are confident that your son or daughter will find the Sixth Form inspirational and productive and that they will look back on these 2 years as an extremely enjoyable and life enhancing experience.

Swans International School

Why Swans IB Diploma?



Since it was launched in 1968, the IB Diploma is considered to be an international Sixth Form Education Programme of superior quality. It is consistently praised by top universities for its comprehensive study programmes, rigorous testing and for encouraging creative, independent thought.

Originally developed for independent schools in the UK and Switzerland, the programme is now offered by more than 4500 schools worldwide. The programme's high standards have seen IB students regularly outperform A' level students in securing places at top universities and it is regarded extremely highly within the global job market.

The best preparation for success is to offer students a challenging, stimulating and nurturing educational environment. We believe that the International Baccalaureate is the most effective educational programme available to do this.

We give our students and teachers access to the latest technology to support learning both at school and at home. Our students are given the best tools to explore the world and feed their academic curiosities, including either an Apple Macbook or an iPad Pro for their personal use.

“

“In addition to our responsibility to foster academic success, it is our duty to inspire students to graduate as confident international citizens with intercultural understanding and respect”.

Jason Williams, Head of Sixth Form

Swans IB results

Over the years, Swans IB results have exceeded the global averages and our scores are steadily rising. In fact, 50 % of our Sixth Form teachers are also IB examiners.

IB subjects

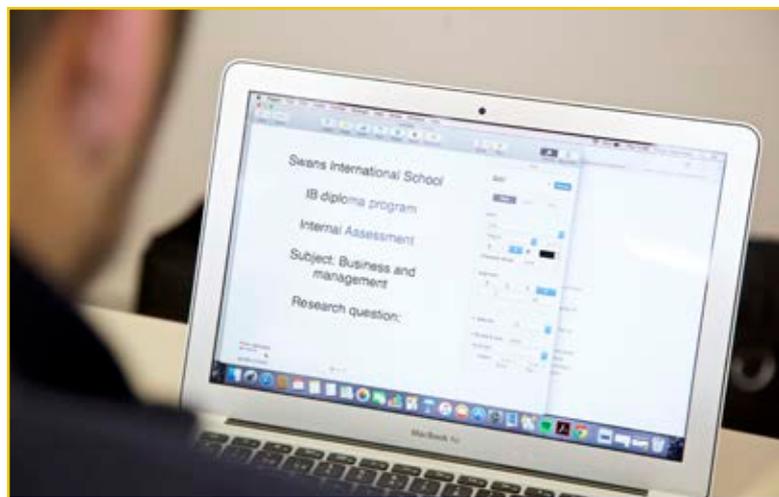
Students have the freedom to choose 6 options from a broad range of subjects covering arts, humanities, science and three levels of maths.

Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS)

In addition to excellent academic ability and exam results, the Swans IB programme encourages students to participate in extra-curricular activities in order to develop interests and life skills. It is our aim to guide students so that they graduate as fully rounded young people who are equipped for life beyond education.

Pastoral care and communication

The IB students are guaranteed individual attention from teachers, benefiting from regular guidance, advice and encouragement. Support is on-hand from IB coordinators, form tutors, the head of the sixth form, extended essay tutors and also head girls and boys.



More information about the International Baccalaureate can be found by visiting www.ibo.org

The IB Learner Profile

The aim of our IB Programme is to **help our students develop into fully-rounded internationally aware young people**, throughout their time at Swans and also in their life beyond the Sixth Form.

As an IB School, we value these 10 attributes highly, as we believe they form a blueprint for helping students become responsible members of the local, national and global community.

IB Learners strive to be....

Inquirers:

They develop their natural curiosity. They acquire the skills necessary to conduct inquiry and research and to show independence in learning. They actively enjoy learning and this love of learning will be sustained throughout their lives.

Knowledgeable:

They explore concepts, ideas and issues that have local and global significance. In so doing, they acquire in-depth knowledge and develop understanding across a broad and balanced range of disciplines.

Thinkers:

They exercise initiative in applying thinking skills critically and creatively to recognize and approach complex problems, making reasoned, ethical decisions.

Communicators:

They understand and express ideas and information confidently and creatively in more than one language and in a variety of modes of communication. They work effectively and willingly in collaboration with others.

Principled:

They act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness, justice and respect for the dignity of individual groups and communities. They take responsibility for their own actions and the consequences that accompany them.



Open-minded:

They understand and appreciate their own cultures and personal histories and are open to the perspectives, values and traditions of other individuals and communities. They are accustomed to seeking and evaluating a range of points of view and are willing to grow from the experience.

Caring:

They show empathy, compassion and respect towards the needs and feelings of others. They have personal commitment and act to make a positive difference to the lives of others and to the environment.

Risk-takers:

They approach unfamiliar situations and uncertainty with courage and forethought and have the independence of spirit to explore new roles, ideas and strategies. They are brave and articulate in defending their beliefs.

Balanced:

They understand the importance of intellectual, physical and emotional balance to achieve personal well-being for themselves and others.

Reflective:

They give thoughtful consideration to their own learning and experience. They are able to assess and understand their strengths and limitations in order to support their learning and personal development.

Choosing IB Subjects

The IB Diploma is designed to be sufficiently broad to enable students to **keep their university and career options open**, whilst at the same time demonstrating a preference for a particular area of study.

How it works?

In addition to the core elements: Extended Essay, Theory of Knowledge (TOK) and Creativity, Action and Service (CAS); students select six subjects from the six categories (listed below); three at Standard Level (SL) and three at Higher Level (HL).

Students can select their elective subjects from these six categories

- **Group 1:** Language and Literature - English, Spanish
- **Group 2:** Language Acquisition - English, Spanish
- **Group 3:** Humanities - Economics, History, Geography, Business & Management, Psychology
- **Group 4:** Sciences - Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Environmental Systems, Computer Science
- **Group 5:** Mathematics - Maths studies (SL), Mathematics (SL), Mathematics (HL)
- **Group 6:** The Arts*- Fine Art, Music, Theatre Studies, Film Studies

Students are expected to take 2 languages (a second and a first language, normally a combination of English and Spanish). They should also choose a subject from Group 3 (Humanities), Group 4 (Science) and Group 5 (Mathematics). Group 6 (The Arts) subjects are optional.

* If students do not choose a subject from The Arts, it is possible to choose a second science, maths or a third language option instead.



Advice to students

We advise students to consider their subject choices carefully to reflect future aspirations. The IB Diploma has the flexibility to allow students to choose Higher Level subjects that reflect their university or career goals. The Standard Level subjects can then be selected according to particular interests.

3 tips for choosing IB subjects

1. If you already have university or career aspirations decide whether they should affect your subject choices.
2. Choose subjects that you enjoy and are good at (base your decision on annual performance rather than mock exam results).
3. Choose subjects that match your abilities (if unsure talk to your teachers).

How the IB Diploma is awarded

- A score of 24 points must be achieved to be awarded the IB Diploma (there are also other criteria for passing)
- Six subjects = a maximum of 42 points
- Each subject has a maximum point value of 7
- Extended Essay and Theory of Knowledge have a maximum point value of 3
- CAS has no point value. However, it is an essential element of the course and must be passed.

Theory of Knowledge

Theory of Knowledge (TOK) is central to the philosophy of the **IB Diploma Programme and is designed to encourage** students to consider **“how we know what we think we know”**. Assessment of this important element takes the form of an Essay of 1,600 words and an oral presentation.

TOK invites students to reflect upon what counts as knowledge, what are its limits, who owns it and the value of knowledge. It poses questions designed to challenge ideological assumptions about theories and how they fit into the real world, judging the best models and what counts as evidence.

The aim of TOK activities and discussions is to help students discover and express their views on “knowledge” issues and to encourage critical thinking about knowledge itself. Students will be urged to share ideas, listen to and learn from others and to acknowledge the digital revolution and information economy impacts upon different parts of the world. During this process students’ thinking and understanding of knowledge as a human construct are shaped, enriched and deepened.

What counts as knowledge?
How does it grow?
What are its limits?
Who owns knowledge?
What is the value of knowledge?
What are the implications of having or not having knowledge?

TOK is assessed both internally and externally.

“

The IB Diploma has changed me as a student. It has given me a well-rounded education and has prepared me very well for my journey ahead. I have no regrets that I chose to study the Diploma.

Luca de Jong, 2016

Extended Essay

This module offers students the opportunity to explore a topic that is of special interest (usually one of the six diploma subjects) and to demonstrate high level independent research, writing skills, intellectual discovery and creativity, at a level expected by degree students. The entire process should take around 40 hours of work resulting in a formally presented structured essay numbering no more than 4,000 words.

Students are expected to communicate their findings in a reasoned and coherent manner, and it is recommended that they follow up the written report with a short concluding interview with their supervisor. This can provide a valuable stimulus for discussion should an interview be required prior to receiving an offer of a place at university or for employment.

Our students that have gone on to university tell us that the skills they learned with the Extended Essay gave them a tremendous advantage over their peers, especially when producing reports and working on their honours projects (dissertations).

How TOK and the Extended Essay are graded

The Extended Essay is marked by an external examiner. The TOK and Extended Essay points will be combined and graded in one of five bands where a maximum of 5 points can be gained.

Completion of TOK, Extended Essay and CAS are all mandatory components of the IB Diploma.



Creativity, Action and Service (CAS)

Creativity, Action and Service (CAS) is at the heart of the IB Diploma. In addition to academic excellence, IB students undertake a range of activities designed to strengthen and develop interpersonal skills to create fully rounded individuals ready to join the global community.

All CAS students will be expected to produce a portfolio showcasing their experiences and achievements, demonstrating challenges, collaboration, ethics and new skills.



The CAS course allows all Swans Sixth Formers to have the responsibility to create events and participate in them with each other – it helps the family atmosphere we currently have in Swans Sixth Form.

Adam Fiutak, 2015

Recent CAS activities

- Climbing La Cruz, Refugio de Juanar
- Manning the Marbella Half Marathon water station
- Neon Night Charity Walk
- Volunteering at a local radio station
- Reading with primary students
- Working as school counsellors and buddies
- Learning a martial art
- Volunteering with local children's charities
- Organising and running a talent show

Pastoral Support and Counselling

Pastoral care is a vital element of the IB Programme.

All members of staff have a duty of care for the wellbeing of each student, which is why Swans Sixth Formers have **one to one access to pastoral mentors on a daily basis.** Close contact with tutors allows students to develop a mutually beneficial relationship based on trust and understanding. Tutors are also responsible for monitoring the way students present and conduct themselves around the school, to ensure they are adhering to the guidelines on dress and behaviour.

Each year group is represented on the student council by a member from each tutor group, allowing students to speak on behalf of their peers and to affect school policy.



Private Study

As part of the IB Diploma's holistic approach to education Swans students are encouraged to learn how to organise themselves and to manage their time effectively, during study and in other areas of their life.

“

“IB has not only helped me in my assignments in regards to referencing and layout in my essays, but my outlook on how to handle deadlines and manage my workload in times of stress.”

Imani Tupper IB Graduation 2016



Academic curiosity

It is our aim to encourage IB students to become independent learners who are inquisitive and curious about the subjects that they are studying.

We believe this philosophy is essential for students who go on to study at universities around the world, where academic curiosity is essential.

Within the busy IB Programme schedule, students have around 4 non-contact periods each week. This time can be used for private study, such as homework, internal assessments, Extended Essays or university applications.

In addition, students are expected to schedule time after school, either at home or on-site, to complete their academic assignments. This could be homework set by the teachers or coursework projects that form part of the IB internal assessment process.

Private study facilities

ICT facilities are provided in the IB workroom, the Sixth Form common room and the library, and each student is allocated storage on the school's network. In addition, both students and staff have Apple Macbooks or iPad Pros for planning and preparation in school.

“

“Studying at Swans has definitely made the transition from sixth form into university a much easier one! Studying IB at Swans in particular has allowed me to develop the essential skills needed at university. I was taught how to become more independent and confident, not just in terms of work but also as a person. I am truly grateful for studying IB at Swans.”

Ranya Leguel 2016 IB Graduate



Where our Graduates Study

The IB Diploma is an ideal preparation for university. The programme is designed to offer academic breadth and depth, creating independent learners equipped for the academic rigours of education beyond school and also as a fully rounded citizen of the world.

Here are some of the universities where our students have chosen to study...



Swans IB Diploma Graduates

NAME	UNIVERSITY	COURSE	GRADUATED
Luca De Jonge,	University of Exeter	Drama	2016
Imani Tupper,	University College London (UCL)	Psychology	2016
Sara Benkirane	St. Andrew's University (full scholarship)	International Relations	2016
Daisy Chaplain	University of Edinburgh	English Literature	2015
Nicole Quinn	London School of Economics	Anthropology and Law	2015
Lola Rodriguez	Complutense, Madrid	Medicine	2015
Claire Laing	University of Sussex	Accountancy	2015
Lu QianHe	Imperial College, London	Biotechnology	2015
Maria Not Bravo	Esade, Barcelona	Law and International Relations	2015
Saskia Tupper	University of Exeter	Drama	2015
Lucien White	Cardiff Metropolitan	Sports Science	2015
Leonardo Caramazza	Rotterdam, Netherlands	Economics and Business	2014
Amelia Walton	London School of Fashion	Fashion Management	2014
Felipe Fernandez	Hochschule Rhein-Waal Germany	Mechanical Engineering	2014
Anzelika Konigkina	Leeds Metropolitan	Theatre and Performance	2014
Hugo Lopez	University of Bristol	Economics	2014
Emma Melis	Leeds Metropolitan	Business Management	2014
Joseph Parsons	University of York	English and History	2014
Enrique Sevilla García	University of Manchester	Economics	2014
Pedro Candela Terry	University of Lancashire	Journalism	2013
Pablo Crossa	University of Abertey	Computer System Security	2012

IB Diploma Programme Entry Requirements

We welcome applications from any students with at least six A*- C grades at IGCSE (or equivalent in similar qualifications) which must include: First Language English and Mathematics. Specific grades may be required to complete the Higher Level studies in a subject, for example HL mathematics will require at least an A grade at IGCSE level. Students not already studying at Swans will need to provide a recent school report and contact details of their previous school.

Application process

- Interview with head teacher and a member of senior management.
- Review of previous school record (at Swans or elsewhere) to determine attitude and aptitude.

Minimum examination grade thresholds

SUBJECT	THRESHOLD
English A1 (Higher)	IGCSE Grade B in both English First Language and Literature
Spanish A1 (Higher)	IGCSE Grade B in both Spanish First Language and Literature
English B (Higher)	IGCSE Grade B in English Second Language
Mathematics (Higher)	IGCSE Grade A in Mathematics
Mathematics (Standard)	IGCSE Grade B in Mathematics
Physics (Higher)	IGCSE Grade A in Mathematics and Science
Music (Standard)	IGCSE Grade B in Music and proficiency in instrument / voice



Swans International School Scholarships

Swans Academic Scholarship

In 2010 Swans launched its Academic Scholarship as a means of rewarding high academic achievers. It has proved extremely successful, attracting many applications from amongst our most able students.

Applicants are invited to submit a letter outlining their plans for the future and how they intend to contribute to our school community. Applications must be supported by at least one teacher reference and students will then be interviewed by the school's senior management. Decisions will be taken after IGCSE exam results are released in August of each year.

External Academic Scholarships

We are delighted to announce the addition of two External Academic Scholarships starting in 2017, inviting students from outside to apply for a 2-year Academic Scholarship.

How it works

In return for a reduction in fees successful applicants will provide an extracurricular activity for younger students and act as a Swans International School Ambassador by attending various school functions. The scholarship covers two academic years, however, the decision to continue the scholarship into the second year will be based upon the standard of academic excellence achieved in the first year.

How to apply

Applicants must provide the following:

- Completed application form
- Copy of their IGCSE Mock exam results (or equivalent)
- Copy of their latest school report
- Letter explaining why they should be considered for a scholarship

The deadline for applications is **28th February 2017**. Please contact our admissions officer **Elena Calvert** at our Sierra Blanca campus to request an application form and to arrange a visit or discuss our scholarships in more detail on admin@swansschool.net or by calling 952 902 755.

SWANS

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Established 1971

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